

Six Decades, 1960-2020

Mark Hendricks' Artist Statement

I've worked on the epic *Six Decades* series of large-scale collages for over half a century. Each was created at the end of the previous decade, starting from the acidly satirical *Sixties Decade* and continuing through the optimistic worldview of the *Aughts Decade*. Recently completed is the liminal *Teens Decade*.

These 4 x 8 foot panels form a single continuum ripped and torn from the microcosm of my personal experience during each decade and the macrocosm of collective history. The magazines I read during each decade are the major source material.

In a continuous editing process, I cross-reference and distill image and text, creating multiple, omnidirectional montages in which meaning is continually reinvented. The compositions mirror my point of view while organizing memories at different depths, continuously shifting as one overlaps another, revealing a cacophony of possibilities and perspectives.

From one panel to the next, recurring themes of hope and dismay persist and evolve over time. I juxtapose potent reminders of human failures such as war, pollution and starvation with such optimistic potential as nature, innovation and evolution. The interwoven series forms a riotous statement of how I experienced each era, contrasting the mediated history of the decade with my point of view. The resulting dialog is an iterative narrative that explores and transcends the detritus of time.